



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420**

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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER LETTER

**MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL MEETING**

1. The Medical Library Association (MLA) will hold its national meeting in San Diego, CA, May 2nd through May 7th, 2003. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will hold two meetings for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Library Network (VALNET) librarians on Tuesday, May 6th, 2003, and Wednesday, May 7th, 2003.
2. This year's MLA program, which focuses on providing quality health information and services, will provide special programs on using innovative approaches and strategies to attain this goal. Attendance at this conference will enable each facility's library staff to attend sessions covering a wide variety of library and information science issues.
3. The VA session on May 6 will be an update from VA Central Office staff and advisory groups on their activities over the last year. The program on May 7 will focus on a variety of challenges currently facing VA librarians, including digital information licensing and access issues and competitive sourcing. This session will be an open forum which, hopefully, will generate discussion and facilitate sharing of information.
4. Professional librarians direct the functions of the organization responsible for identifying, locating, analyzing, and delivering knowledge-based information to VHA healthcare providers. Each facility's librarian's attendance at this conference is encouraged. Facilities are responsible for registration, travel expenses, and per diem.
5. Questions may be referred to Ginny DuPont, Network Librarian, Communication Service, VHA Office of Information, VHA Central Office, at (202) 273-8522.

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